

Lutherans Talk About...Scripture, Marriage, Ordination and LGBTQIA+

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Session 3: Marriage, Ordination, and Summary

Welcome!

Prayer

Finishing up the NT: Romans 1

Background on Romans: letter of introduction for Paul; theological essay—Paul a stranger

Read: What do you notice? What's at work here: law or grace?

Marriage

Red Thread #3: God created the heavens and the earth *and is still creating*

Creation #1: **Genesis 1:26-28** male and female in the image of God

Creation #2: **Genesis 2:4b-7, 18-25** “the adam” “the adamah”

The Fall and consequences: Genesis 3:16-19

The “order of creation” -- prescriptive or descriptive? >> Odd laws

In the NT: Eph 5:22-33 “wives be subject to your husbands”

Ongoing creation: the order overturned

Isaiah 43: 18-19

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Galatians 3:28-29

Sidebar: Other forms of marriage in the Bible

Polygamy, concubines, slaves: Abraham (3 wives), Jacob (2), Moses (2), David (8)

Levirate marriage (Deuteronomy 25:5-10)

New Testament: bishops and deacons to have only one wife (I Tim 3)

Paul on celibacy (I Corinthians 7:8-9)

Ordination

Some men set aside as bishops, deacons, and elders in I Timothy 3 and 5, and in Titus.

Ordination as we know it a gradual development in the early church, beyond Bible times

See documents from ELCA Constitution and 2009 Churchwide Assembly

Comparison with women's ordination issues (1970)

Objections based on women's place in creation, not ordination itself

Biblical principles shape contemporary Christian ethics more than specific texts

1. The Bible has no concept of sexual orientation as a given part of human reality, like left-handedness. Therefore, specific texts on sexuality or marriage can't help as much as we'd like them to.
2. Biblical principles, however, can open a way.
 - *Acts 15: The Council of Jerusalem on letting Gentiles in
 - *Francis Spufford, “How My Mind Has Changed: From Rules to Principles,” Christian Century, 7/28/21.

Summary reflections/conversation

Thanks!